

Question 102

Name _____

Q102. What does the tenth commandment teach you?

A102. To be content with our lot.

Scripture Base: Rom. 12:15; Phil. 4:11-13;
1 Tim. 6: 6-10; Heb. 13:5-6.

Doctrine: WCF 19, 26 SC 79-81

Supplementary Questions

1. What is the opposite of coveting?
2. What does it mean to be content?
3. How can you be content?
4. What will happen if you learn to be content?

Song: The Ten Commandments - J. Rogers

Story: *William Guthrie, a Scottish minister who lived in the 17th Century, wrote,*

"Objects seem large or little according to the medium through which they are viewed. In the microscope, what a remarkable change they undergo! The humble moss rises into a graceful tree; the beetle armed for battle, flashes in golden or silver mail; a grain of sand swells into a mass of rock; and, on the other hand, a mountain looked at through the wrong end of a telescope sinks into a mole-hill, and the broad lake contracts into a tiny pool. Even so, according as we look at them, with the eyes of self-condemning humility, or of self-righteous pride, God's mercies seem great or little. For example, a minister of the Gospel passing one day near a cottage, was attracted to its door by the sound of a loud and earnest voice. It was a bare and lonely dwelling; the home of a man who was childless, old, and poor. Drawing near this mean and humble cabin, the stranger at length made out these words, 'This, and Jesus Christ too! This, and Jesus Christ too!' as they were repeated over and over in tones of deep emotion, of wonder, gratitude, and praise. His curiosity was roused to see what that could be which called forth such fervent, overflowing thanks. Stealing near, he looked in at the patched and broken window; and there in the form of a grey, bent, worn-out son of toil, at a rude table, with hands raised to God, and his eyes fixed on some crusts of bread and a cup of water, sat piety, peace, humility, contentment, exclaiming, 'This, and Jesus Christ too!'"

(Guthrie, 2965)

Teaching Notes

Review: Q101. What is the tenth commandment? - *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

Story: - *see above.* Phil. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Heb. 13:5-6; Rom. 12:15

Supplementary Questions

1. *What is the opposite of coveting?* - Contentment.
2. *What does it mean to be content?* - To be satisfied with your present circumstances; to be happy with what you have. Paul knew what it was to be content (Phil. 4:11-12).
3. *How can you be content?* - Don't want more than what you really need, "If we have **food and covering**, with these we shall be content" (1 Tim. 6:8). Realize that anything you have in this world is only for this world: you can't take it with you (v. 7). Be satisfied with what the Lord has given you and be content that the Lord is with you (Heb. 13:5-6).
4. *What will happen if you learn to be content?* You will gain certain blessings (1 Tim. 6:6). You will learn the secret of being happy even though you don't have many things (like the man in Guthrie's story). You won't get angry when others have something you don't or do something you can't, but will learn to be happy for them (Rom. 12:15). You will avoid the very dangerous path of covetousness (1 Tim. 6:9-10).

Gospel: Are you content with what you have and with your circumstances, or do you need more of the things of the world to make you happy? These things will never satisfy you. You will always need more of them because the happiness they can give you is limited. Only Jesus can satisfy you, because His love and His Father's love are without limit. That's why the old man in Guthrie's story was so happy with so little: he had Jesus as his Savior. God had given him so much in Jesus, that he didn't expect anything more. He had very little of this world, but he had the riches of heaven in Jesus. Receive the love the Father offers you in Christ and you can learn to be content.

Activity: On board - lists of what coveting could lead to - complaining, stealing, lying, fighting, murder etc. Worksheet 5-10 continued.

Song: The Ten Commandments - Judy Rogers